(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) (i) The amounts of losses written down against capital by Dena Bank and Bank of India during 1995-96 have been Rs. 136.29 Crores and 1369.92 crores respectively.

RBI data monitoring system does not generate information in respect of (ii) & (iii).

(iv) The recovery of NPAs by Bank of India and Dena Bank during 1993-94 to 1995-96 have been as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Bank of India	301.00	325.00	354.00
Dena Bank	65.91	12.00	69.80

Proposal for Setting up A Tourism Promotion Board

1184. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Tourism Promiton Board for promotion of tourism;

(b) if so, the composition of the members of the proposed Tourism Promotion Board;

(c) whether Government propose to have private sector investment in the promotion of toursm; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURSIM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up a Tourism Promotion Board. However, it is proposed to set up a "Board of Tourism Industry and Trade" with the Minister for Tourism as Chairman and Ministers of other concerned Ministries and State Governments as well as representatives of Industry Associations as members to oversee the implementation of the strategy for tourism development

(c) to (d) To encourage private sector investment in Tourism, the Government of India grants incentives such as interest subsidy on loans to one, two and three star hotels located outside four metropolition cities, income tax concessions on foreign exchange earnings, concessional import duties etc. An Investment Facilitation Cell has also been set up to provide facilitation services to entrepreneurs.

Annual Conference of Income Tax Chief Commissioners and Director Generals

1185. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two day annual conference of Income Tax Chief Commissioners and Director Generals had been held at New Delhi on 13th November, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are some objectives for holding such a conference;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some suggestions/decisions were given/taken in the conference; and

(f) if so, the details thereof with steps to be taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An all India Conference of Chief Commissioners and Directors General of Income-tax was held in New

Delhi on November 13-14, 1996.

(c) and (d) The objectives for holding such a Conference are to review the performance of the Department in the preceeding months of the financial year and to deliberate on the strategy to be adopted not only to achieve but also to exceed the action plan targets. The Conference also serves as an experience sharing forum for the top tax administrators of the country.

(d) and (f) The following subjects were discussed in the Conference:—

(i) Review of collection;

(ii) Review of computerisation work with particular emphasis on allotment of Permanent Account Number and Processing of challans;

(iii) Augmentation of infrastructure;

(iv) Widening of tax base;

(v) Suggestions for legislative amendments;

(vi) Review of limited scrutiny scheme; and

(vii) Long term training needs.

On the basis of the suggestions and recommendations made in the Conference, the following major decisions were taken:—

1. The work relating to allotment of Permanent Account Number is to be completed by 31.3.1997 in Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai.
2. For widening the tax base, the following measures were decided:—
   (i) A centralised cell is to be created at Delhi for collecting data in respect of potential tax-payers. This cell will maintain liaison with all Chief Commissioners of Income-tax.
   (ii) Cells on similar lines are to be created in the region of each Chief Commissioner of Income-tax.
   (iii) A study will be made to streamline the existing system of collection of information of potential tax-payers and the utilisation of such information in the Department.
   (iv) A committee was set up to go into the existing procedure regarding tax deduction at source by the banks and to suggest required changes.
3. It was decided that each Chief Commissioner of Income-tax shall identify one project out of their ongoing projects of residential and office accommodation for priority clearance and release of funds.
4. Various suggestions for legislative amendments were noted for examination.

Necessary steps have been taken for speedy implementation of the above decisions.

Passing of Excise/Customs Duty Benefits to Consumers

1186. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in most of the cases where excise and customs duty benefits are given under budget proposals by Government every year, the same are not passed down to the consumer in fair proposition;

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment about the extent of such benefits which were passed down to the consumer during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 and to what extent the benefits are concerned by the manufacturers, importers and other players in the field; and

(c) what is the mechanism available or contrivance proposed to be put in operation to monitor the passage of such budgetary benefits to the sections whom they are intended to benefit?